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EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

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April - December 1985

Project Managers: *Ronald E. Dolan*
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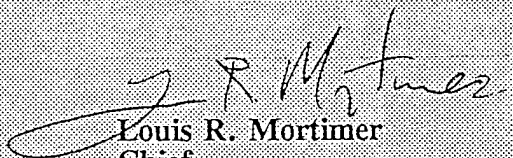
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EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

April 1985

Project Manager: Robert L. Worden

PREFACE

The summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage of East Asian and Pacific region reactions to the United States' proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) are based on a short-term collection effort. Most of the items date from January 1985 and research emphasis was put on Australia, China, and Japan. In cases where materials were more easily retrievable and time permitted, items dating back to the 1983 announcement of SDI by President Reagan were included. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 April 1985.

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AUSTRALIA

Political sensitivities abound in Australia over the SDI proposal. Prime Minister Robert Hawke found it necessary early in 1985 to admit that his Labor government had given approval in September 1984 for an extension to a collaborative research project involving a SDI-related "rail gun" but insisted that Australian expertise would be confined to the area of conventional defense systems. Picking up on the apparent contradiction of Hawke's statements, media reported that he had sought assurances from Washington that US bases in Australia would not be linked to SDI and by February 1985 had informed Washington that his government did not endorse SDI. Shortly thereafter, an Australian Government official was openly critical of SDI at the UN Disarmament Conference in Geneva and the Defense Ministry announced that the Australian Government would not become involved in SDI research.

The Government's responses are at odds with the opposition which wants Australia to participate in SDI research. In its defense, the Hawke government said it feared SDI would upset the balance of deterrence between the United States and the Soviet Union without being sure of substituting something better. Doubts also were raised if it would technically be possible to build an impenetrable shield against nuclear attack as claimed SDI would do. The Australian Government stated it does not believe its failure to endorse SDI will jeopardize its relations with Washington. Opposition leaders, however, rejoined with the charge that Hawke had mislead the US Government during talks in Washington in February 1985 by implying that Australia would participate in the project. An early April 1985 report from Canberra opined that tensions were rising in the Labor Party over the contentious issue of SDI.

AUSTRALIA

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 20 Nov 84, pp. M1-2

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 8 Feb 85, pp. M1-2

Nexis, Reuters Ltd., 9 Jan 85

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 8 Feb 85, p. M4

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 21 Feb 85, pp. M2-3

Australia News, 21 Feb 85, pp. 1-2

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 27 Mar 85, p. M1

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 28 Mar 85, p. M1

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 29 Mar 85, p. M1-2

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 29 Mar 85, p. M2-3

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 3 Apr 85, pp. M1-2

CHINA

China took an early interest in the United States' SDI proposal and, from the start, criticized it as a new field of military confrontation and a serious escalation of the superpowers' arms race. In the 1983-85 period, official Chinese statements consistently warned against the dangers to the human race of a superpower arms race in outer space--the "fourth battlefield" in the next world war. Although Beijing was generally pessimistic about the possible success of space disarmament talks between the United States and the Soviet Union, it implicitly encouraged the convocation of these talks and called for the early conclusion of a space demilitarization treaty.

In 1983, Chinese official statements and media reports concentrated on the publicity given SDI by the United States and Soviet counter statements. The superpowers posturing over the disarmament issue was called a "fierce war of words" as outer space has "lost its enchanting flavor of romance and has become a restless wrestling ring." Chinese observers noted the diversity of opinion over "Star Wars" even in the United States and emphasized that the majority of people there "hold that this plan can do nothing but make the arms race between the United States and the USSR become more and more dangerous." They noted that elsewhere in the world, the SDI proposal and Soviet responses have "produced unprecedented tension" and "imperilled world peace."

Starting in late 1983 and continuing through early 1985, Chinese Disarmament Ambassador Qian Jiadong has reiterated his government's call for:

- o a halt to the space arms race,
- o using space solely for peaceful purposes, and
- o achieving an international pact to insure the demilitarization of outer space.

In the year and more preceding the convocation of US-Soviet disarmament negotiations in Geneva, China viewed the superpowers' posturing as ways of manipulating an agenda favorable to their own side while seeking to gain public support of or opposition to SDI. Beijing media noted that while the United States hopes to use SDI to wear down the Soviet Union economically and thus gain, with just the threat of its development, concessions from Moscow in the talks, the Soviet Union, by its own words, will never allow the United States to get the upper hand in space weaponry no matter what the economic costs.

In his fall 1984 report of the UN General Assembly, Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Xueqian charged that the superpowers would use their forthcoming disarmament talks to cover up their arms race in outer space and reiterated China's now-standard line which calls for:

for the early conclusion of a treaty on 'the' prohibition of the arms race in outer space and a ban on research, testing, development, manufacture, deployment, and use of all weapons designed for outer space warfare as well as destruction of all existing outer space weapons systems.

Soon after Wu's speech, China submitted its first draft resolution on disarmament, emphasizing a halt to space weapons development. A second and similar Chinese working document was submitted in Geneva in March 1985. Amidst its calls for a new treaty, China insisted that earlier space-related treaties (1967, 1972, and 1979) had failed to preclude the present danger implied in SDI and concluded that "[i]t is obvious that existing international treaties are inadequate to limit and prohibit space weapons."

In early 1985, Chinese reportage emphasized two themes: US efforts to enlist its allies' support of SDI in the period prior to the US-USSR disarmament talks in Geneva; and the Geneva talks themselves. In a mildly critical vein, Chinese media discussed the dangers implicit in the US decision to launch a military-use space shuttle and reviewed the efforts of US officials to obtain West European concurrence with SDI. In the latter case, detail was provided on the mixed success: West Germany offered support, France opposed, and the United Kingdom was undecided what actions it should take. Countering these opinions were those revealed in other Chinese reports that Romania had called for both superpowers to stop space warfare development and East Germany's and Czechoslovakia's support of the disarmament conference concept. As talks got underway, China observed that the Soviets were indeed "anxious to limit [SDI] development through talks" but hastened to add that even the Soviets were not optimistic that the talks would enter a substantive stage before the summer of 1985.

CHINA

FBIS/China, 18 Jul 83,pp. B4-6

Beijing Review, 2 May 83, p. 10

FBIS/China, 3 Jun 83,pp. A5-6

FBIS/China, 20 May 83,pp. A1-2

FBIS/China, 26 Aug 83, p. A1

FBIS/China, 12 Oct 83,pp. A1-3

FBIS/China, 2 Nov 83, p. A1 Beijing Review, 21 Nov 83, p. 13

FBIS/China, 21 Apr 83,pp. A1, 9

FBIS/China, 11 Apr 83, p. A3

FBIS/China, 20 Apr 83, p. A1

FBIS/China, 5 Jan 84,pp. A1-6

FBIS/China, 9 Jul 84, p. A1

FBIS/China, 12 Jul 84,pp. A1-2

Beijing Review, 3 Sep 84, pp. 14-15

Beijing Review, 4 Oct 84, pp. 16-18, 23-25

NEXIS, Reuters North European News Service, 24 Oct 84, p. 412

FBIS/China, 25 Oct 84, p. A1

China Daily, 26 Oct 84, p. 1

FBIS/China, 13 Nov 84,pp. A2-3

Beijing Review, 5 Nov 84, pp. 16-19

FBIS/China, 26 Nov 84,pp. A3-5

FBIS/China, 10 Dec 84,pp. A1-2

FBIS/China, 28 Jan 85, p. B1

FBIS/China, 11 Feb 85, p. B2

FBIS/China, 20 Feb 85,pp. A4-5

Beijing Review, 4 Mar 85, p. 11

FBIS/China, 11 Mar 85,pp. A1-5

CHINA (con't)

FBIS/China, 12 Mar 85, pp. A1-A4

FBIS/China, 19 Mar 85, pp. A1-2

FBIS/China, 20 Mar 85, p. A2

FBIS/China, 25 Mar 85, p p. A1-A4

FBIS/China, 28 Mar 85, pp. A1-A2

JAPAN

SDI is a politically sensitive issue in Japan as shown by various Government statements followed by clarifications amidst opposition party and media criticism. It is apparent that while there is a fair amount of uneasiness over SDI, the Government so far has committed itself only to studying the plan prior to determining if it will allow Japan to become involved in technological support of "Star Wars."

Early 1985 reportage demonstrated a standard mix of Japanese political opinion following a January 1985 summit meeting between Prime Minister Nakasone and President Reagan. Nakasone said he had an "understanding" for SDI as a means to promote comprehensive nuclear disarmament and he expressed support of SDI research and development. Under pressure, Nakasone explained that he had not passed his country's final judgment on SDI and revealed that he felt that the "contents of the SDI are not clear." Opposition parties sought political advantage against the new Nakasone cabinet by criticizing his apparent support of SDI while at least one leading newspaper's editorialists stated disapproval of SDI on three counts: its expansion of the arms race, its enormous cost, and the disunity it would foster among the Western allies. A less decisive editorial in favor of Nakasone's apparent SDI stand saw hope in the promise of neutralizing Soviet nuclear offensive power while bringing nervous Soviet leaders to the negotiating table; a hope reiterated in mid-January by the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

By mid-March, the Japanese Government had announced its endorsement of SDI and reported that the Self-Defense Agency had begun an independent in-depth technological analysis of SDI in relation to both US-Soviet relations and the impact on Japanese defense policy. The media noted that the United States will "demand" Japanese cooperation in communications technology, particularly microwave technology. Japan drew deeper into support of SDI in late March and early April as Tokyo requested that a team of US SDI experts be sent to Japan to explain the system in detail. The request was in response to the "invitation" issued by the United States for Japan and its allies to reply in 60 days whether or not they would be participating in SDI research. Asahi Shimbun, the same newspaper which offered the above-mentioned opposition, saw "high-handedness" in Washington's overtures and insisted that Nakasone "has so far steered clear of a definitive commitment" to SDI.

JAPAN

Daily Summary of Japanese Press, 10 Jul 84, pp. 9-10

NEXIS, Jiji Press Ticker Service, 4 Jan 85

Daily Summary of Japanese Press, 8 Jan 85, p.7

Daily Summary of Japanese Press, 5-7 Jan 85, pp. 13-14

NEXIS, Jiji Press Ticker Service, 4 Jan 85

Daily Summary of Japanese Press, 5-7 Jan 85, pp. 3-5

Daily Summary of Japanese Press, 5-7 Jan 85, pp. 15-16.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 7 Jan 85, pp. C1-2

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 10 Jan 85, pp. 2-3

NEXIS, Jiji Press Ticker Service, 7 Jan 85

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 8 Jan 85, pp. 2-3

Daily Summary of Japanese Press, 11 Jan 85, pp. 15-16

Daily Summary of Japanese Press, 17 Jan 85, p. 1

Daily Summary of Japanese Press, 23 Jan 85, p. 3

NEXIS, Kyodo News Service, 30 Jan 85

JPRS/Japan, 14 Mar 85, pp. 10-11

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 22 Mar 85, pp. 2-3

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 21 Mar 85, pp. C1-2

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 27 Mar 85, p. C3

NEXIS, Kyodo News Service, 27 Mar 85

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 28 Mar 85, p. C1

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 29 Mar 85, p. C1

Nexis, Kyodo News Service, 30 Mar 85

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 5 Apr 85, pp. 2-3

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 2 Apr 85, p. C2

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 5 Apr 85, p. C2

KOREA (NORTH)

The paucity of immediately available materials expressing North Korean opinion on SDI is not enough to give an overview but the one item included here is probably typical. SDI is called "an offspring of a harebrained design" aimed at attaining world supremacy for the United States. SDI is a system of "developing mass destruction weapons and massively promoting a space militarization plan" that is just another part of US imperialism's threat to world peace.

KOREA (SOUTH)

South Korean media coverage on SDI is almost uniformly pro-US as is expected from a traditional ally. SDI is seen as a sign of US strength in the face of the Soviet threat. Most of the immediately available reportage, from 1985, emphasizes the Geneva disarmament talks, the Soviets' call for an end of the space-based arms race, and the hardline policy of the United States in the negotiations. Only one item included here was critical of SDI, declaring it would not demilitarize the arsenals of the earth as claimed by President Reagan but "might bring about uncontrollable disaster and unhappiness for humanity."

KOREA (NORTH)

JPRS/Korea, 25 Feb 85, pp. 158-159

KOREA (SOUTH)

Korea Herald, 26 Mar 83, p. 4

Press Translations (US Embassy, Seoul) 8 Jan 85, pp. 2-3

Press Translations (US Embassy, Seoul) 9 Jan 85, pp. 3-4

Press Translations (US Embassy, Seoul) 30 Jan 85, pp. 1-2

Korea Herald (Seoul) 23 Feb 85, p. 3

NEW ZEALAND

Only one item is included on New Zealand reactions to the SDI issue. It indicates the Lange government's opposition to SDI and reports that opposition leader Bob Jones called SDI "imaginative lateral thinking" which would help negate or neutralize Soviet power. Endorsement of SDI by the New Zealand Government, said Jones, could win back Washington's friendship.

NEW ZEALAND

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 14 Mar 85, p. M4

SOUTHEAST ASIA

ASEAN Nations

The six nations of ASEAN apparently have not found it necessary or wise to issue official statements in 1985 on SDI. Most seek to avoid confrontation with either superpower and overt support or opposition to SDI might create such a situation. One item, that gives a sense of public opinion from a region generally considered to have foreign policies not threatening to the United States, is an Indonesian Times editorial. This commentary, from one of Jakarta's moderate dailies, found satisfaction in the fact that SDI had "jolted" the Soviet Union and, having given rise to doubts in the Kremlin over its present weaponry, induced the Soviets to go to the conference table with the United States.

While further time and search might uncover other such statements, the lack of significant statements appears to confirm the assumption that the ASEAN nations are currently taking a nonaligned stance on the issue of SDI.

Indochina

Only one quickly retrievable item from Vietnam is included, indicating a somewhat unexpected dearth of commentary on such an anti-Soviet proposal as SDI. As is to be expected, however, a Nhan Dan editorial saw great merit in the Soviet opposition to SDI and its efforts to prevent the militarization of space. The United States was seen as using proposed disarmament talks only to hide its efforts to militarize outer space. Wholehearted support was offered by Hanoi to Moscow.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Indonesian Times, 4 Mar 85, p. 2

Vietnam Courier, Sep 84, p. 12

**EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE**

May 1985

Project Manager: Robert L. Worden

PREFACE

The summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage of East Asian and Pacific region reactions to the United States' proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) are an update to those transmitted under the same title in April 1985. Most of the items reported on in this issue date from March 1985. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 May 1985.

Contributors to this issue are Russell Ross, Ronald Dolan, Rodney Katz, and Neal Marcot.

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AUSTRALIA

Australian Foreign Minister William Hayden reiterated that the Australian Government did not endorse the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) proposal during 1-2 May talks in Canberra on disarmament with a delegation led by Dr. Kenneth Adelman, Director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Hayden's preliminary remarks at the meeting voiced Australian doubts and perplexity over the practicality of implementing the theoretical SDI concept. According to a media report following the 2-day talks, Australian officials said the talks revealed contradictions and problems they viewed as inherent in the SDI plan. There was no indication of Australian acceptance of an earlier invitation from the US Secretary of Defense to participate in SDI research.

AUSTRALIA

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 2 May 85, pp. M1-2

CHINA

China's basic approach to the SDI is clearly delineated in a recently-received article entitled "The Eye-catching US Space Strategic Program" published in the 1 October 1984 issue of Shijie Zhishi [World Knowledge] (Beijing). The article traces the development of the SDI program from "an official confidential document of the United States" formulated in 1982 and the establishment of the Space Command in September of that year. It describes opposition to the plan within the United States and elsewhere and speculates that the Reagan administration has decided to go ahead with the plan despite this opposition, because of the need to offset a serious inferiority to the USSR in strategic offensive and strategic defensive strength. The article concludes that the SDI program will

- °make the military equilibrium even more unstable;
- °aggravate the arms race;
- °affect the disarmament talks;
- °affect the security of US allies; and
- °place a heavier military burden on the United States.

During April, Chinese reportage continued to concentrate on the reactions of US European allies and the Soviet Union to the SDI program. An article in the 1 April 1985 issue of Beijing Review claimed that US-West European relations are being "put to the test" because of differences over SDI, and a 2 April 1985 Renmin Ribao article spoke of "a lot of misgivings" on the part of West European countries as regards SDI. A 14 April 1985 Renmin Ribao article on the active foreign policy of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher indicated that although she supports carrying out experiments under the SDI program, this support is "conditional."

Nearly every Chinese report on US-Soviet relations and arms negotiations describes the SDI program as the "main sticking point."

While Beijing continues to oppose SDI as an element in the superpowers' arms race in outerspace, this opposition mainly takes the form of quoting Soviet and West European criticism of the program. The most authoritative Chinese statements on SDI remain the 1 October 1984 Shijie Zhishi article and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Xueqian's call for a prohibition of the arms race in outerspace in his fall 1984 speech to the UN General Assembly.

CHINA

China, Science & Technology, JPRS-CST-84-039, 3 Dec 84, pp. 1-8.

Beijing Review, no. 14, 1 Apr 85, p. 14.

FBIS/China, 5 Apr 85, p. G1.

FBIS/China, 9 Apr 85, pp. G2-3.

FBIS/China, 11 Apr 85, p. A1.

FBIS/China, 12 Apr 85, p. C1.

FBIS/China, 17 Apr 85, p. A1.

FBIS/China, 19 Apr 85, pp. G2-3.

FBIS/China, 25 Apr 85, p. C1.

INDONESIA

Press interest in Indonesia on the SDI picked up in March/April as world attention focused on the disarmament negotiations in Geneva.

Harian Umum Angkatan Bersenjata [Armed Forces Daily] (Jakarta) and the moderate Indonesia Times gave equal treatment to both sides, outlining the US and Soviet positions on the issue. The Times relegated the subject to the inside pages and printed, without comment, a wire service (Agence France-Presse) account of SDI in a story on the forthcoming Geneva talks. Harian Umum Angkatan Bersenjata, for its part, displayed some bias in favor of the US position. The daily headlined one back-page article on the "US military advantage gained by the SDI" and, in a subsequent issue, in an inside op-ed piece described the Kremlin efforts to erect an anti-ICBM system. The latter article sought to make a case that Moscow's endeavor in this respect antedated that of Washington.

Balancing the Harian Umum Angkatan Bersenjata accounts were the articles appearing in the left-of-center Indonesian Observer, owned by old-line nationalist and pro-Soviet journalist B. M. Diah. The paper, mindful of government censors, carefully refrained from editorial commentary on the SDI, but nevertheless showed its pro-Moscow bias in the placement and headlining of articles. The same AFP article that appeared inside the Times was given front-page treatment and a derogatory title in the Observer. Other wire service stories (not included here) from Western sources were similarly retitled with headlines favorable to the Soviet side.

INDONESIA

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 9 Mar 85, p. 1.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 11 Mar 85, p. 1.

Indonesian Times (Jakarta), 11 Mar 85, p. 4.

Harian Umum Angkatan Bersenjata (Jakarta), 20 Mar 85, p. 4.

Harian Umum Angkatan Bersenjata (Jakarta), 21 Mar 85, p. 8.

JAPAN

While Prime Minister Nakasone expressed general support for the US directed research on SDI in January 1985, the Japanese Government has yet to decide whether it will accept US Defense Secretary Weinberger's March request to participate in the program. A decision from Tokyo was to have been made prior to the Bonn Economic Summit in early May, but Nakasone indicated to US policymakers that his government required additional time to study the request more thoroughly and "sound out" NATO thinking on the matter. Tokyo's current reticence to commit its full resources to SDI can be traced to four evident considerations:

°differences between Foreign Minister Abe and the Foreign Ministry's North American Affairs Bureau whether Japan's SDI participation would violate the government's ban on the transfer of military technology to overseas countries;

°uncertainty on the part of Japanese business leaders as to the precise role the United States wants them to play in basic SDI research;

°opposition to SDI from Japan's small but influential minority parties, including the JSP, JCP, and Komeito; and

°hesitancy on the part of the Japanese leadership that SDI participation would result in a further deterioration in US-Soviet and Japanese-Soviet relations and would jeopardize the strategic arms talks at Geneva.

JAPAN

Japan Times (Tokyo), 8 Jan 85, p. 1.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 30 Mar 85, p. 7.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 8 Apr 85, p. C1.

Aviation Week & Space Technology (New York), 8 Apr 85, p. 21.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 9 Apr 85, p. 3.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 11 Apr 85, p. 3.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 12 Apr 85, p. C4.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 24 Apr 85, p. C1.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 25 Apr 85, p. C2

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 29 Apr 85, pp. 2-3.

New York Times, 3 May 85, p. A11.

KOREA (NORTH)

In April 1985 North Korea continued to criticize SDI and announced its support for Soviet opposition to the SDI proposal. Nodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the Korean Workers Party, commented on 4 April that SDI is a strategic plan to turn space into a nuclear war arena from which the United States can threaten any point in the world, including Korea. A joint communique issued on 23 April in Moscow by the Korean and Soviet foreign ministers included a reference to North Korea's support for Soviet initiatives opposing the militarization of space.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 8 Apr 85, pp. D5-6.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 25 Apr 85, pp D1-3.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

June 1985

Project Manager: Ronald E. Dolan

PREFACE

The summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage of East Asian and Pacific region reactions to the United States' proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) are an update to those transmitted under the same title in May 1985. Most of the items reported on in this issue date from May 1985. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 June 1985.

Contributors to this issue are Russell Ross, Ronald Dolan, Warren Darkow, Rodney Katz, and Neal Marcot.

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AUSTRALIA

Australian Defense Minister Kim Beazley confirmed on 10 May that Australia would assist the United States in testing a new satellite surveillance system. While acknowledging that the new system was linked to the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) plan, he stated that Australia's involvement was not directly related to the SDI and would end next year. In his view, Australia's own surveillance capability may derive long-term benefits from the research tests. In response, a spokesman for the Australian Democrats, a minority party wielding a balance of power in the Senate, viewed the testing as an essential phase of the SDI and accused the Labor Government of hypocrisy in withholding its endorsement of the SDI proposal while agreeing to participate in the US-directed testing program.

AUSTRALIA

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 10 May 85, p. M1.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 13 May 85, p. M1.

CHINA

Chinese reporting on SDI during May was limited to straight-forward accounts of US and Soviet statements on nuclear-arms negotiations and the part that SDI plays in those negotiations.

An article from the 18 March 1985 issue of Liaowang [Outlook], translated in the 29 April 1985 issue of the JPRS Worldwide Report, Arms Control, gives background on the development of the SDI program and lists the three characteristics of the plan as:

°A long preparatory period;

°Multilevel defense, which includes:

1. Interception in the launching state,
2. Interception midway in outerspace,
3. Interception in the reentry state; and

°New defensive weapons.

Three articles from the March/April 1985 issue of Hangtian [Spaceflight], translated by this office, give brief descriptions of space weapons under development by the United States.

CHINA

FBIS/China, 26 April 1985, p. A5

FBIS/China, 29 April 1985, pp. B1, C1

FBIS/China, 7 May 1985, p. B1

FBIS/China, 22 May 1985, p. C2

FBIS/China, 30 May 1985, p. A2

"The United States Experiments with a Non-Nuclear Anti-Satellite Weapon." Hangtian [Spaceflight] (Beijing), March/April 1985, p. 7.

"The US Has Decided to Develop a Permanent Manned Space Station." Hangtian [Spaceflight] (Beijing), March/April 1985, p. 7.

Wang Changxian. "Breakthrough in Anti-Missile Electromagnetic Gun Technology." Hangtian [Spaceflight] (Beijing), March/April 1985, p. 17.

Worldwide Report, Arms Control, JPRS-TAC-85-006, 29 April 1985, pp. 47-56.

INDONESIA

In an editorial from the moderate Indonesia Times, leading defense intellectual LTG (ret) Sayidiman Suryohadiprojo¹ gives balanced treatment, according moral superiority to neither the Soviet Union nor the United States on the SDI question. Sayidiman presents the arguments of the US side on the issue, but notes that both the United States and the USSR had agreed in 1972 that "defensive capabilities in the strategic nuclear confrontation must be limited," and that both sides recognized that "strategic defense capabilities were destabilizing."

The discussion appears to tilt toward the Soviet position when Sayidiman says further into his article that the USSR is "right that the SDI concept is destabilizing. [sic] Because it is trying to change something fundamental which has, until today, the fullest confidence of the majority of the people." He quickly returns to a posture of moral equivalence, however, by noting that, because of the danger of an unintentional firing of nuclear weapons, "it is therefore understandable why President Reagan and his people are thinking of the unacceptability of the MAD (mutually assured destruction) concept."

Sayidiman also reports that the USSR is engaged in "its own research program for a defensive concept," and that, due to Moscow's "strategic attitude which gives first priority to warfighting, the people around President Reagan may be right."

Sayidiman then surveys Western European reservations to the SDI, hinting at an inherent American selfishness on the issue as he observes that "the US is giving its main attention to its own defense," and asking that if that is the case, "could there be enough motivations for the US to side actively with the Europeans?"

The writer then resumes an anti-SDI stance and takes account of the non-ideological, technical arguments advanced by American critics of the concept, namely that the system would not protect against low trajectory, lower altitude or terrain-hugging weapons such as SLBMs or cruise missiles.

Finishing his article with a non-committal summation that neither the United States nor the Soviet Union could draw comfort from--or criticize--Sayidiman posits that "if the SDI is not an all-conclusive defense mechanism, then a future arms race cannot be prevented....The SDI can, therefore, never be the last word in nuclear warfare."

¹Sayidiman, a devout Javanese Muslim, was a major general and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Army in the 1970s. He subsequently became Governor of the National Defense Institute (LEMHANAS) in Jakarta, and, after retirement from the Armed Forces, served as Indonesian ambassador to Japan. He has written occasionally for US military publications.

INDONESIA

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 27 March 1985, p. 4.

JAPAN

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone continues to assert in public that US-directed SDI Research and Development is justified on the grounds that such research is defensive in nature and would eventually lead to the abolition of nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, the Japanese Government remains undecided as to whether or not to accept US Defense Secretary Weinberger's March request to participate in joint SDI research. Japanese reticence to participate in the program has been based on the lack of a domestic consensus as to the legality or advisability of such a commitment, as well as on the inability of the NATO countries to formalize a concerted SDI policy. In early May, an unnamed key Japanese foreign ministry official opined that the Japanese Government might not render a final decision before autumn 1985 whether to commit its resources to SDI research.

JAPAN

FBIS, ASIA/PACIFIC, 7 May 1985, pp. 3-4. (Annex)

FBIS, ASIA/PACIFIC, 9 May 1985, p. C2.

FBIS, ASIA/PACIFIC, 10 May 1985, p. C1.

FBIS, ASIA/PACIFIC, 13 May 1985, p. 2. (Annex)

FBIS, ASIA/PACIFIC, 13 May 1985, pp. C2-C5.

FBIS, ASIA/PACIFIC, 15 May 1985, p. C1.

FBIS, ASIA/PACIFIC, 16 May 1985, p. 2. (Annex)

FBIS, ASIA/PACIFIC, 29 May 1985, p. 2. (Annex)

KOREA (SOUTH)

South Korean Government officials are not known to have commented on SDI during May. However, two unofficial reports are worth noting. The first, a Korea Herald editorial published on 4 May, implies that opposition to SDI by France and other Western countries could harm US efforts to negotiate arms reductions with the Soviets. The editorial, published on the occasion of the eleventh Western Economic Summit in Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany, maintains that greater solidarity among the nations participating in the Summit is necessary to promote the defense of the Free World. The second, a Choson Ilbo report on a meeting of South Korean defense specialists, suggests that the strategy of deterring a nuclear strike from space will be effective only if both the United States and the Soviet Union have similar systems. A doctrine based on the use of non-nuclear space-based weapons is viewed as being safer than the current doctrine of mutually assured destruction. If, however, the United States develops this system and does not share the technology with the Soviets, the Koreans believe that the Soviets have the capability to produce a system that will neutralize the American system.

KOREA (SOUTH)

Choson Ilbo (Seoul), 3 April 1985, summary, in Press Translations, US Embassy, Seoul, 16 April 1985, pp. 7-9.

Korea Herald (Seoul), 4 May 1985, p. 2.

MALAYSIA

An article from a back issue of Malaysian Business sets up a moral equivalency between Moscow and Washington on the SDI issue. Journalist Khor Eng Lee relates the background of the SDI under the general rubric of an ABM (anti-ballistic missile) defense system. Noting the US arsenal of nuclear weaponry, he expresses considerable scepticism about the Reagan Administration position and comments that "the shift in the strategic vision from a policy of assured destruction to assured defence may be more illusory than real. Will the Americans who have called themselves the masters of the game, actually adopt the traditional strategic doctrine espoused by their rivals?" Nevertheless, Lee sees an uncomplicated strategy in the US gambit of opting concurrently for both offensive and defensive nuclear weapons. He observes that

"...Reagan seems determined to close the so-called window of vulnerability... as well as to erase all new Soviet gains in the strategic field. Reagan's thinking is very simple. He wants everything under the sun....He's playing safe."

In simply repeating the public utterances of Kremlin officials on the subject, without a scrutiny of Moscow's own offensive nuclear capability, Lee leaves himself open to a charge of media bias in favor of the USSR. This is accompanied by a return to the theme of moral equivalence when, after liberally paraphrasing the Pentagon's Soviet Military Power 1984, he concludes

"'A major Soviet objective is to expand warfighting capability in space and achieve a measure of superiority,' says the report. But the same thing can be said of American space efforts."

MALAYSIA

Malaysian Business (Kuala Lumpur), 1 September 1984, p. 27

**EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO
THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE**

July 1985

Project Manager: Robert L. Worden

PREFACE

The summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage of East Asian and Pacific region reactions to the United States' proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) are an update to those transmitted under the same title in June 1985. Most of the items reported on in this issue date from April 1985. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 July 1985.

Contributors to this issue are Warren W. Darkow, Russell R. Ross, Ronald E. Dolan, Rodney P. Katz, and Neal A. Marcot. --

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AUSTRALIA

Since late May 1985, public statements by Australia's Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense have reaffirmed the Labor government's opposition to the US-sponsored Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) program. Foreign Minister William Hayden expressed concern on 31 May 1985, that the US space defense system would spur a new arms race leading to violations of international agreements concerning outer space. Defense Minister Kim Beasley said on 12 June 1985 that certain aspects of the SDI plan (command and control and a prospective massive deployment of force to counter the space-based antimissile system) still worried Australian government officials. The latter prospect, in the Australian view, complicated arms control efforts.

In Brussels on 14 June 1985, Hayden informed NATO officials that Australia rejected both the deployment of weapons in space and Australian participation in the SDI research program. In response to Hayden's NATO address, a spokesman for the opposition Liberal Party called the Hawke government's decision irresponsible. The opposition spokesman argued that the nation's civilian and military sectors could each benefit from access to advanced technology under the SDI research program. In early July, the opposition Liberal Party also released a foreign policy statement in Sydney committing the party to support the SDI plan and other US-directed military programs involving Australia.

AUSTRALIA

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 4 June 1985, p. M1.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 12 June 1985, p. M1.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 17 June 1985, p. M1.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 18 June 1985, p. M1.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 1 July 1985, p. M1.

CHINA

During June 1985, Chinese statements depicted the different superpower approaches to SDI as the "major stumbling block" and the "focus of the impasse" in the Geneva disarmament negotiations. China's policy on SDI was revealed in statements by various government spokesmen reiterating opposition to the arms race, especially the race to build nuclear and space weapons. On 4 June, Li Yimang, President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, told an international conference on disarmament meeting in Beijing that China is opposed to the arms race and called on the two superpowers to halt the arms race and "take the lead in halting the testing, improvement and production of nuclear weapons and space weapons. . . ." At a dinner given in London the same day by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang said that China is opposed to the arms race, "particularly the nuclear arms race, and the extension of this race to the outer space." At a 5 June news conference, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Yuzhen responded to a question with the statement that "China is against all forms of the arms race, and even more so to its extension to outer space by the United States and the Soviet Union." He also said that the French "Eureka" program to coordinate the research and development of defense related high technology by European nations "embodies the spirit of self-strengthening through unity for Europe." A 25 June Xinhua report added that some Europeans look upon the "Eureka" program as necessary to avoid becoming pawns in a US-Soviet arms race in outer space.

Recently received material from March and April 1985 corroborates earlier findings that China is opposed to the SDI as an extension of the arms race to outer space, an obstacle in US-Soviet disarmament talks, and a potentially divisive issue in US relations with its NATO allies.

CHINA

China Report, JPRS-CPS-85-033, 5 April 1985, pp. 1-2.

Worldwide Report: Arms Control, JPRS-TAC-85-005, 23 April 1985, pp. 22-23, 41-43, 44-45, 82, 83, 84-85, 86.

Worldwide Report: Arms Control, JPRS-TAC-85-011, 23 May 1985, pp. 101, 104-105.

FBIS/China, 3 June 1985, pp. A1-3.

FBIS/China, 4 June 1985, pp. A1-2, G6.

FBIS/China, 5 June 1985, p. A1.

FBIS/China, 6 June 1985, p. A1.

FBIS/China, 7 June 1985, pp. A3-6.

FBIS/China, 13 June 1985, pp. A1-2.

FBIS/China, 26 June 1985, pp. G1-2.

FBIS/China, 27 June 1985, p. C1.

FBIS/China, 28 June 1985, p. B1.

INDONESIA

Little incisive commentary was noted from the Indonesian press on SDI. The left-of-center Indonesian Observer published a three-article series marking the reconvening of the US-USSR disarmament talks in Geneva. The first two articles reproduced in toto President Ronald Reagan's 28 March 1983 SDI address. The third article, reprinted from USIS-provided copy, consisted of a lecture by Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs Richard Burt. The piece, appearing on the op-ed page, was entitled "Myth and Reality Around Strategic Defense Initiative." None of the three articles carried any editorial comment. Having thus presented the US side of the issue, the Observer then made an attempt at restoring the balance with a circumspect effort at publicizing the Soviet viewpoint. An inside page article presented a wire service story that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had verbally attacked the US "Star Wars Program" during a visit to Moscow by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Later in the month, the paper, ever mindful of government censors, cautiously repeated in an editorial, Gorbachev's assertion that SDI will increase the risk of nuclear war.

The moderate Indonesian Times reported on its inside pages the results of a survey by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (London). The article noted that the SDI posed both a threat and a potential benefit to the NATO alliance while rendering far more complex the negotiating process in Geneva. Later in the month, the Indonesian Times published three additional stories on SDI, all in the newspaper's inside pages. One story noted that Prime Minister Gandhi had asked President Reagan to abandon SDI; a second that Japan and West Germany supported SDI; a third that the NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington had warned the Western alliance not to rely unduly on the SDI. All three articles were wire service stories (Associated Press, Kantor Berita Nasional Indonesia, and Agence France Presse), and they appeared without further comment. In an editorial published in connection with the 30th anniversary of the Bandung Conference, the Times noted briefly that the two superpowers remained far apart on the SDI, with Moscow demanding that the program be shelved and Washington insisting it had to rely on a space-based system to defend itself from the nuclear superiority of the USSR.

INDONESIA

Indonesian Times (Jakarta), 30 April 1985, p. 2.

Indonesian Times (Jakarta), 2 May 1985, p. 2.

Indonesian Times (Jakarta), 4 May 1985, p. 7.

Indonesian Times (Jakarta), 17 May 1985, p. 7.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 24 May 1985, p. 3.

Indonesian Times (Jakarta), 28 May 1985, p. 8.

JAPAN

Despite Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's continued public pronouncements supporting US-directed SDI research, the Japanese Government has not yet formally decided whether to accept US Defense Secretary Weinberger's March 1985 request to participate in the program. However, there were indications during June that the Japanese Government was considering the possibility of allowing Japanese corporations to participate in SDI research on a case-by-case basis. Prime Minister Nakasone also announced in June that any Japanese Government decision regarding SDI participation would not require Diet approval. Japan will probably delay a formal decision to participate in SDI research until NATO announces its SDI policy and until a more crystallized domestic consensus emerges concerning the advisability and legality of Japan's involvement.

JAPAN

Daily Summary of Japanese Press (US Embassy, Tokyo), 17 May 1985, pp. 4-7.

JPRS, Japan Report, JST-85-047-L, 30 May 1985, pp. 71. (FOUO)

JPRS, Japan Report, JST-85-021, 30 May 1985, pp. 68-70.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 3 June 1985, p. C3.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 5 June 1985, pp. C2-3.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 6 June 1985, p. 2. (Annex) (FOUO)

JPRS, Japan Report, JAR-85-023-L, 12 June 1985, pp. 29-34. (FOUO)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 12 June 1985, pp. C1-2.

JPRS, Japan Report, JAR-85-024-L, 18 June 1985, pp. 29-30. (FOUO)

JPRS, Japan Report, JAR-85-015, 18 June 1985, p. 8.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 20 June 1985, pp. C2-3.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 21 June 1985, pp. 2-3. (Annex) (FOUO)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 24 June 1985, pp. 2-3. (Annex) (FOUO)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 25 June 1985, p. 2. (Annex) (FOUO)

KOREA (NORTH)

In its most critical SDI commentary to date, North Korea excoriated the United States for alleged efforts to pressure the South Korean Government into participating in the development of the SDI. An article in Nodong Sinmun on 23 June 1985 claimed that the United States plans to use space-based weapons to launch nuclear attacks against North Korea and other socialist countries. The article states that Japan is already cooperating with the United States in SDI development and maintains that if South Korea follows Japan's lead, tensions on the Korean peninsula and in Asia will be further exacerbated.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 24 June 1985, pp. D13-14.

THAILAND

In a January 1985 commentary on SDI, the Bangkok Post noted that Moscow's main concern at the Geneva disarmament talks would be to induce the United States to abandon the SDI. To accomplish this, the writer predicted that the Kremlin, as an opening move, would first seek US agreement banning the testing of anti-satellite weapons. The editorial speculated, however, that if the United States resisted the Soviet gambit and pressed ahead on the SDI, the USSR would be obliged to follow suit, a course of action that would wreak an intolerable toll on the Soviet economy. A second editorial from the Bangkok Post observed that the main stumbling block between the two superpowers in Geneva would be weapons in space and that little reconciliation on this issue appeared possible. According to the article, President Reagan was holding firm on the SDI, while the USSR was equally adamant that there should be no research or deployment of space-based armaments under this program.

THAILAND

Bangkok Post, 7 January 1985, p. 4.

Bangkok Post, 28 January 1985, p. 4.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

August 1985

Project Manager: Robert L. Worden

PREFACE

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AUSTRALIA

During July there were no indications that the Australian Labor Government had deviated from its strong opposition to endorsing the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) program or permitting Australia's involvement in SDI research activities. The SDI issue was again raised by US Secretary of State George Shultz during his 1-day talks in Canberra on 15 July with Australian Government ministers. As an argument for cooperation in SDI research, Secretary Schultz provided the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, and the Defense Minister with copies of a recent paper on Soviet progress in SDI research prepared by Paul Nitze, the President Reagan's special adviser on arms reduction negotiations. At a news conference following the talks, Foreign Minister William Hayden disclosed that the SDI issue was a subject for further consideration by the Cabinet before a formal reply was made to the US invitation to participate in SDI research.

In Perth on 29 July, General Sir Phillip Bennett, Chief of the Defense Force [Australian Armed Forces], expressed the view that the high technology involved in SDI research would only have limited application to Australia's defense requirements based on the country's small population relative to neighboring Asian nations. He believed, however, that high technology in other non-SDI fields involving advanced weapons systems, aircraft, and air and ground mobility could substantially enhance Australia's defense capabilities.

AUSTRALIA

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 16 Jul 85, pp. M1-2.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 30 Jul 85, p. M1.

CHINA

On 31 July, Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Xueqian, in a meeting in Tokyo with Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, declared China's opposition to the militarization of outer space and criticized SDI and a similar Soviet program. The July 1985 Chinese press coverage of the SDI and associated issues was, for the most part, restricted to straightforward reporting of the course of the US-Soviet arms reduction talks at Geneva and of statements of US and Soviet spokesmen. China also reported West European countries' ambivalence about participation in SDI research, and claimed mounting interest in the French-initiated "Eureka" program for development of advanced technology.

While there was no explicit commentary or editorializing, Chinese selection of topics to report reflected previous positions of opposition to the arms race in general and the SDI program in particular. The Chinese press portrayed a superpower arms race, with both sides equally intransigent and a Western alliance increasingly destabilized by US strategic policies and programs that tend to reduce Western European nations to strategic dependence. Chinese reporting of West European reservations about the SDI program reflects Chinese evaluations of the US and the Soviet Union as equally hegemonistic superpowers, a point of view reiterated by analysts at the Beijing Institute for International Strategic Studies in their discussions with Swedish reporters.

CHINA

China Report, JPRS-CPS-85-057, 12 June 1985, p. 11.

China Daily (Beijing), 27 June 1985, p. 4.

FBIS/China, 2 July 1985, pp. A1-2.

FBIS/China, 5 July 1985, pp. B1-2.

FBIS/China, 9 July 1985, p. A1.

FBIS/China, 10 July 1985, pp. A2-3.

FBIS/China, 11 July 1985, pp. A2-3.

FBIS/China, 12 July 1985, pp. A4-6.

FBIS/China, 15 July 1985, p. C2.

FBIS/China, 17 July 1985, pp. A3-4.

China Report, JPRS-CPS-85-071, 22 July 1985, pp. 13-15.

FBIS/China, 25 July 1985, p. C1.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 31 July 1985, p. C11.

INDONESIA

The SDI attracted waning interest in Indonesia during July. There was no Indonesian commentary on the subject, and Jakarta's moderate dailies moved wire service articles on SDI to inconspicuous places in the inside pages. The Indonesia Times reported briefly in a Reuters/Antara story that many US scientists were opposed to SDI. In a second KNI (Kantor Berita Nasional Indonesia)/AP article, the Indonesia Times quoted veteran Soviet negotiator Viktor S. Karpov's pessimistic assessment that SDI "reduces the chances of a Geneva agreement," but accorded some space to a rebuttal by US negotiator Max M. Kampelmann.

Harian Umum Angkatan Bersenjata [Armed Forces Daily] reported in three brief back-page articles, a fortnight apart, that SDI had become the central issue in US-Soviet negotiations in Geneva, and that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, during his Washington visit, had described the SDI as "very dangerous." The articles were wire-service stories (Antara/Reuters/UPI) and ran without commentary.

Jakarta's left-of-center Indonesian Observer, edited by pro-Soviet B. M. Diah, displayed a brief flurry of interest in "Eureka," the French-sponsored alternative to SDI. Two articles on the subject appeared in the Observer. One was given front-page treatment; the other was buried in the inside columns. Both were wire-service stories (Agence France Presse), published without comment, and generally called attention to the support the "Eureka" proposal was gaining among West European political leaders.

INDONESIA

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 26 April 1985, p. 2.

Harian Umum Bersenjata [Armed Forces Daily] (Jakarta), 24 May 1985, p. 8.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 30 May 1985, p. 7.

Indonesia Times, 1 June 1985, p. 2.

Harian Umum Bersenjata, 1 June 1985, p. 12.

Harian Umum Bersenjata, 17 June 1985, p. 8.

JAPAN

There was little or no available Japanese Government commentary on possible official or private Japanese participation in US-directed SDI research. However, during his European trip from 12 July to 21 July, Prime Minister Nakasone exchanged views on the SDI with French President Francois Mitterrand and his Italian counterpart Benedetto Craxi, reiterating Japan's "understanding" of the concept of SDI and his belief that the launching of the SDI prompted the Soviet Union to agree to comprehensive arms control talks with the United States in Geneva. In a meeting on 31 July in Tokyo, Foreign Minister Abe Shintaro and visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian exchanged views on the SDI.

JAPAN

Jiji Press Service, 17 July 1985 (NEXIS).

Kyodo News Service, 22 July 1985 (NEXIS).

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 31 July 1985, p. C11.

KOREA (NORTH)

Although North Korea continues to depict SDI as part of a US plan to undermine its security and that of other Socialist states, it maintains a wait-and-see policy toward the possibility that South Korea or Japan might participate in the development of the program. Apparently, the North Koreans do not believe that the South Korean Government has reached a decision to support the United States on SDI. A 28 June broadcast on SDI by the Pyongyang Domestic Service limited comment to what it views as a US effort to persuade South Korea to support the program, along with a restatement of the reasons why Seoul should refuse to back Washington on the issue. On 11 July the Pyongyang Domestic Service broadcast the text of a Kim Il-song interview with a Japanese magazine in which he refers to SDI, but makes no reference to the current policy debate in Japan on the subject. In the interview, Kim accuses the United States of planning to expand the arms race to outer space and he suggests that SDI is a topic of debate within the Western alliance. While not commenting on Japan's military relations with the United States, Kim did express the hope that Japan would "free itself from the policy of following the United States."

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 1 July 1985, pp. D10-11.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 13 July 1985, pp. D4, 9.

KOREA (SOUTH)

South Korean officials are not publicly supporting SDI, and the paucity of coverage on SDI in the nation's press indicates that the Government is not encouraging public discussion of this sensitive issue. A 28 June broadcast by the Pyongyang Domestic Service (see Korea (North) entry above) mentions that an unnamed US official held a press conference in Seoul on 18 June to brief reporters on SDI and notes that at least one South Korean newspaper published an article on the meeting. However, no South Korean coverage of the 18 June press conference was received during the reporting period.

THAILAND

In Thailand, during the reporting period, the moderate Bangkok Post printed an editorial on SDI describing it as an important US counter at the Geneva talks, a forum in which Washington was seen as having had few bargaining chips in recent years because of impressive Soviet weapons developments. The editorial predicted that the USSR would do its utmost to bring about the cancellation of SDI by linking it to the issue of overall strategic arms limitation.

A Ban Muang [Homeland] commentary by chauvinistic Thai journalist "Free Man" described the interview of a Soviet woman cosmonaut. The biographic piece subtly wove in the Kremlin's propaganda theme against the SDI by noting that the proposal involved militarization of the outer atmosphere and that, in the words of the female cosmonaut, "Our world must not be destroyed, particularly from space." The tone and wording of the article, and lack of introductory or explanatory text, hinted at its origin in the press office of the Soviet embassy in Bangkok. Its appearance in a right-wing daily, under the byline of a journalist considered chauvinistically Thai, could be written off as an anomaly, and may simply have involved a journalistic favor done by "Free Man" for his professional counterpart in the Soviet Embassy.

THAILAND

Ban Muang [Homeland] (Bangkok), 11 February 1985, p. 3, in JPRS-SEA-85-092,
10 June 1985, p. 73.

Bangkok Post, 26 March 1985, p. 4.

OTHER

A full-length article denouncing SDI appeared in the pro-Soviet monthly Africa-Asia published from Paris. Although this serial is not of Asian origin, it is aimed at, and attracts considerable readership in, the Third World nations of Africa and Asia. In the article cited, Soviet propagandists showed considerable dexterity in manipulating their anti-SDI theme to fit into a Third World context. SDI was denounced, not only because it sought military superiority over the Soviet Union, but also because it represented a US attempt to discourage the USSR "from aiding liberation movements and Third World governments opposed by the United States." From this observation, the article went on to more measured criticism of the SDI, some of it repeating the assertions of leading US scientists that the proposal was a "dangerous illusion," or simply "not workable."

OTHER

Africa-Asia (Paris), no. 17, May 1985, pp. 30-31.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

September 1985

Project Manager: Russell R. Ross

PREFACE

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AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government's reservations concerning the US-sponsored Strategic Defense Initiative continued to be evident in statements made by key Cabinet ministers during August. At an arms control conference in Canberra, Foreign Minister William Hayden reiterated the Labor government's concern that the SDI research program would add a new dimension to the arms race rather than exert a stabilizing influence. Hayden also castigated the Soviet Union for secretly conducting its own "star wars-style" defense research activities on a massive scale.

In a speech to a conference of the Australian Institute of International Affairs in Sydney, Defense Minister Kim Beazley cited the SDI proposal, arms control, and Central American affairs to exemplify Australia's differing perspectives on issues of importance to the United States. He told his audience that the Hawke government "will continue to exercise independent judgment on international relations and world affairs in Australia's interests within the framework of a firm commitment to ANZUS."

AUSTRALIA

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 21 August 85, p. M1.

Australia News, Embassy of Australia, Washington, D.C., no. 16, 9 August 1985,
p. 2.

CHINA

In a 2 August 1985 interview with Robert Maxwell of the Pergamon Press and Mirror Group newspapers, Deng Xiaoping criticized the US Strategic Defense Initiative for "adding a dangerous new dimension to the superpower arms race." For the remainder of August, mention of SDI in the Chinese press was limited to brief reports of Soviet statements and passing references to SDI as an obstacle in US-Soviet arms negotiations.

CHINA

China Daily (Beijing), 2 June 1985, p. 1.

China Daily (Beijing), 9 June 1985, p. 1.

China Report, JPRS-CPS-85-052, 24 May 1985, pp. 12-16.

FBIS/China, 22 August 1985, p. A1.

FBIS/China, 27 August 1985, pp. A1-2.

FBIS/China, 29 August 1985, pp. A1-2.

FBIS/China, 30 August 1985, p. C1.

FBIS/USSR, 6 August 1985, p. B1.

Summary of World Broadcasts (Reading, United Kingdom), 31 May 1985, pp. FE/7965/A1/1-2.

Washington Post, 6 August 1985, p. A10.

Worldwide Report: Arms Control, JPRS-TAC-85-013, 20 June 1985, pp. 29-30.

Worldwide Report: Arms Control, JPRS-TAC-85-018, 18 July 1985, pp. 110-111.

INDONESIA

During this latest reporting period, the Strategic Defense Initiative reemerged briefly in the Indonesian media. In Harian Umum Angkatan Bersenjata [Armed Forces Daily], commentator T. May Rudy attempted a balanced treatment of the subject. He noted that the USSR opposed SDI stringently, while the United States was just as determined to press ahead with it. He observed that the antithetical positions on the subject by the two superpowers had created the possibility of a breakdown in the Geneva arms negotiations. He noted regretfully that both Washington and Moscow were equally committed to preventing the other side from deriving either a strategic or propaganda advantage over SDI. Stepping away from the theme of moral equivalence, however, Rudy stressed the defensive nature of the program and, in a telling value judgment, concluded that "it would appear that the purpose of a defensive system such as the SDI is indeed good."

The moderate Indonesia Times offered no independent commentary on the SDI but published a wire service story on its inside pages. The article noted the opposition of some notable American scientists to the program, and listed the steps that the United States could take to diminish the threat of nuclear war. This was the second article that the Times chose to run in a 2-month period on scientific opposition to the SDI within the United States.

The left-of-center Indonesian Observer, for its part, accorded front page treatment to a wire-service story on the Geneva arms control talks, reporting the lack of progress in the negotiations. The paper gave evidence of its pro-Soviet bias, however, by retitling the story to present the USSR in a favorable light, and by quoting at length Soviet negotiator Viktor Karpov who placed the culpability for the stalemated talks squarely on the United States.

INDONESIA

Harian Umum Angkatan Bersenjata [Armed Forces Daily] (Jakarta), 9 August 1985, p. 4.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 18 July 1985, p. 1.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 18 July 1985, p. 2.

JAPAN

In early August the Government of Japan decided to send an interagency team of experts to the United States to study the Strategic Defense Initiative in preparation for an official response before US Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's scheduled visit to Japan in October.

The Japanese press recapitulated the Japanese Government's view that non-nuclear SDI research is constitutionally permissible and would not require Diet approval. Japan has not yet given a reply to the request of the US Department of Defense for SDI-related information to be gathered from a Japanese research satellite that is scheduled for launch in 1991.

In further coverage during the period from June through August, major Japanese dailies noted that the European desire to avoid a possible drain of intellectual and technological resources underlies the French Eureka plan for sustained technology development within the European Economic Community. Prime Minister Nakasone has stated that Japanese firms might participate in both SDI and Eureka research.

The case of Hitachi Magnetics Co., which produces magnet clusters used in an experimental military laser in the United States, caused concern that Japanese technology might unknowingly be used in the SDI program.

JAPAN

American Embassy, Tokyo, Daily Summary of Japanese Press (hereafter DSJP), 13-15 July 1985, p. 1.

Worldwide Report: Arms Control, JPRS-TAC-85-007-L, 16 July 1985, pp. 52-53. (FOUO)

DSJP, 25 June 1985, pp. 2-3.

DSJP, 16 July 1985, p. 10.

DSJP, 19 June 1985, p. 15.

FBIS/Asia and Pacific, 7 August 1985, Annex p. 3. (FOUO)

Japan Report: Science and Technology, JPRS-JST-85-060-L, 23 July 1985, pp. 55-56. (FOUO)

"U.S. Hopes to Get Satellite Info From Japan, W. Europe for SDI," Jiji Press Ltd., Jiji Press Ticker Service, 29 August 1985. (NEXIS)

KOREA (NORTH)

There was no perceptible change in North Korea's position on the Strategic Defense Initiative during August. In a 14 August speech in Pyongyang to an audience of high level Korean and Soviet officials, Premier Kang Song-san described SDI as a dangerous plan that threatens world peace in general and socialist countries in particular. In the same speech, Kang said that North Korea supports Soviet policies on nuclear arms, and he praised the Soviet Union for its efforts to stop the arms race with the United States. Kang's remarks on SDI were also reported by the Soviet news agency TASS.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 15 August 1985, pp. D9-19.

FBIS/Soviet Union, 16 August 1985, pp. C6-7.

KOREA (SOUTH)

The 18 July Seoul edition of the Korea Herald apparently included an article on the Strategic Defense Initiative selected from the Associated Press wire service. On 30 July the New York edition of the Korea Herald featured a letter to the editor from an American who criticized the newspaper's decision to publish the 18 July article. The letter to the editor supported SDI and claimed that the article in question was written by "strident liberal scientists" who oppose SDI. The letter also warned the editors that reports by the Associated Press, United Press International, the New York Times, and the Washington Post "exhibit a pronounced ideological bias" against President Reagan's SDI program. The Korea Herald's editors probably decided to publish the 18 July article in the interest of reporting the opinions of American scientists who oppose SDI. It is likely that they published the 30 July letter to the editor to demonstrate their willingness to present both sides of the issue.

South Korean Government officials are not known to have made any public statements on SDI during August. South Korean leaders appear to be waiting to see if the United States can obtain more support in Europe and Japan before they commit themselves to publicly supporting or rejecting SDI.

KOREA (SOUTH)

Korea Herald, 30 July 1985, p. 3.

MONGOLIA

As a loyal client of the Soviet Union, Mongolia fully supports the Soviet position on international issues, and the Mongolian reaction to the Strategic Defense Initiative is no exception. Ulaanbaatar praises the Soviet position and attacks the United States for its "... criminal actions ... aimed at achieving strategic superiority over the Soviet Union and other socialist states, and at establishing the United States' domination over the peoples of the world."

Since July 1984 the Mongolian reaction has emphasized the following points:

°Washington is responsible for bringing the world to the dangerous brink of inciting "Star Wars." (July 1984)

°US military and research institutions are constantly working to develop new and more inhumane types of weapons. (July 1984). The atomic bomb, Pershing, MX, and cruise missiles have all been developed in laboratories related to space research. (March 1985)

°Mongolia supports the Soviet position that space should be used only for peaceful purposes and endorses Moscow's 1984 proposal for US-Soviet negotiations to prevent the militarization of outer space and for a moratorium on testing and developing space weapons. (July 1984)

°The United States is hiding behind "empty words" of willingness to negotiate with the Soviet Union in order to implement its plans. (September 1984)

°Washington is implementing its dangerous plans by launching a military satellite on a recent space shuttle Discovery flight (September 1984), setting up a Joint Space Command, secretly preparing astronauts for "Star Wars" (March 1985), and testing the antimissile defense system in the Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands. (April 1985)

°Mongolia supports CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's statement that the US space militarization program blocks the way toward progress in bilateral negotiations in Geneva. (July 1985)

MONGOLIA

Mongolia Report, JPRS-MON-85-004, 5 April 1985, p. 7.

Mongolia Report, JPRS-MON-85-006, 3 May 1985, p. 4.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 9 July 1985, p. F9.

Mongolia Report, JPRS-MON-85-002, 4 March 1985, p. 2.

Mongolia Report, JPRS-MON-85-002, 4 March 1985, p. 33-34.

Mongolia Report, JPRS-MON-85-002, 4 March 1985, p. 6.

Mongolia Report, JPRS-MON-85-005, 2 May 1985, p. 9.

VIETNAM

In keeping with its stand of supporting the foreign policy objectives of the USSR, Hanoi again went on record, as it does periodically, with its opposition to the Strategic Defense Initiative. Appearing before the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vietnamese delegate Le Kim Chung, expressed the concerns of his nation over "the militarization of outer space." In his remarks, Chung also lent Hanoi's support to Soviet proposals for a treaty that would outlaw the use of space as a staging ground for the deployment of strategic weapons. During the same period, a Nhan Dan [People's Daily] editorial praised Moscow's unilateral ban on nuclear testing. It drew attention to the policy of the Soviet Union "to make this world free of war, oppression and violence." Using harsh rhetoric reminiscent of the Vietnam War era, the article contrasted the benevolent Soviet goals to "the war-seeking militarist policy of the imperialist and reactionary circles headed by US imperialists." Pursuing the theme further, the editorial, without offering specific examples, condemned US authorities for scheming "to break up the strategic military equilibrium, step up the nuclear arms race, prepare for 'star wars,' and grossly interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign countries."

VIETNAM

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 2 August 1985, p. K1.

Worldwide Report: Arms Control, JPRS-TAC-85-20, 26 July 1985, p. 121.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

October 1985

Project Manager: *Russell R. Ross*

PREFACE

The summaries and reprints of official statements and media coverage of East Asian and Pacific region reactions to the United States' proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) are an update to those transmitted under the same title in September 1985. Most of the items reported on in this issue date from August 1985. The information used in the summaries is current as of 5 October 1985.

Contributors to this issue are Warren W. Darkow, Ronald E. Dolan, Rodney P. Katz, Russell R. Ross, and William Shaw.

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AUSTRALIA

On 30 August at a press conference in Washington, DC, visiting Australian Defense Minister Kim Beazley reaffirmed the Labor government's unwillingness to participate in the US-sponsored Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research program. Beazley noted that the SDI issue had been raised several times during a week of talks with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and other US officials. However, he told reporters, "We have made it clear that we do not wish to be involved in this area." His statement reflects similar objections to SDI voiced earlier this year by Prime Minister Robert Hawke and Foreign Minister William Hayden. Despite Australia's adamant opposition to the US SDI proposal, Defense Minister Beazley remarked that there has never been the slightest suggestion that the United States would sever intelligence links with Australia if it did not cooperate in SDI research activities.

AUSTRALIA

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 3 September 1985, p. M1.

Embassy of Australia, Australia News (Washington, DC), no. 18, 10 September 1985, p. 1.

CHINA

During September 1985, there were no perceptible changes in China's reaction to SDI. Early in the month, Deng Xiaoping told former US President Richard Nixon that he was opposed to "any arms race in outer space" and said, "We are against whoever goes in for the development of outer space weapons." In mid-September Deng was quoted as "clearly stating" that China opposes an arms race in outer space as a "qualitative escalation of the US-Soviet arms race rather than an escalation in a common sense."

Chinese news accounts continued to report opposition to SDI from the Soviet Union and various groups in the United States, and in every discussion of US-Soviet arms negotiations, SDI was listed as an "obstacle." Mid-September factual coverage of the US ASAT test was coupled with reports of opposition from the Soviet Union, as well as various US congressional and scientific groups. A 25 September Xinhua release reported that a US Congress Office of Technology Assessment study indicated that the Soviet Union was vigorously developing advanced technologies for space-based strategic defense, but that the United States was clearly ahead and that SDI could actually make nuclear war more likely.

CHINA

Ta Kung Pao Weekly Supplement (Hong Kong), 8 August 1985, p. 3.

FBIS/China, 6 September 1985, pp. B1-2.

FBIS/China, 9 September 1985, pp. A1-2, W1-2.

FBIS/China, 16 September 1985, pp. B1-2, C1.

FBIS/China, 18 September 1985, pp. A1.

FBIS/China, 19 September 1985, pp. A1.

FBIS/China, 20 September 1985, pp. A4-5.

FBIS/China, 23 September 1985, pp. A1-3.

FBIS/China, 26 September 1985, pp. A4-5, B1-2.

FBIS/China, 27 September 1985, pp. B2.

FBIS/China, 30 September 1985, pp. A6-8, B4, K1-5.

INDONESIA

During September, SDI became the subject of renewed attention in the Indonesian media. The left-leaning Indonesian Observer led the way with an editorial probably written by pro-Soviet publisher B.M. Diah himself. In the article the author, in measured language, stressed the "peaceful exploration of outer space" as an imperative for mankind and observed that "near-earth space" had been rendered almost habitable by orbiting satellites and space stations. He warned, however, of the "grave military danger" that would accompany the emplacement of weapons in space and made an appeal to "all peaceful nations on earth . . . to save the earth from [this] danger."

In three other instances, the Indonesian Observer selected for publication wire service stories (all from Agence France Presse) that reported negative developments concerning SDI. One of them noted that the majority of Americans interviewed in a media poll expressed opposition to the program. A second article quoted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as stating that "the US 'Star Wars' programs will make it impossible to achieve any nuclear arms limitation accord." A third reported in detail the anti-American rhetoric emanating from the Nonaligned Movement Foreign Ministers' Conference in Luanda, Angola, and drew attention to the draft final declaration that condemned SDI and laid the blame for the arms race squarely upon the United States.

The moderate Indonesia Times, for its part, published one wire service piece during the reporting period. The article noted briefly and impartially that the US pursuit of SDI would probably result in the creation of no more than a thousand jobs in Canada, if Ottawa made a decision to participate in the program.

INDONESIA

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 15 August 1985, p. 1.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 19 August 1985, p. 6.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 21 August 1985, p. 3.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 3 September 1985, p. 1.

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 3 September 1985, p. 8.

JAPAN

During September Japanese Government officials did not go beyond earlier comments that Japan "understands" the US SDI program. Later that month, an official delegation visited the United States for detailed technical briefings on Japan's potential research contribution to the SDI program, and for further talks on the question of transferring Japanese technology to the United States for military purposes. The team was to report on its findings after returning to Tokyo in early October. Prime Minister Nakasone received former West German Prime Minister Helmut Schmidt, who advised that the West German and Japanese Governments could permit private companies to be involved in SDI research but should avoid taking government-level responsibility. Meanwhile, Japan Socialist Party (JSP) Chairman Masashi Ishibashi concluded a 13-day visit to East Germany and the USSR with a joint communique between the JSP and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union condemning the SDI program and agreeing to cooperate in seeking an international agreement banning the militarization of space.

JAPAN

Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 5 September 1985. (NEXIS)

Jiji Press Ticker Service (Tokyo), 12 September 1985. (NEXIS)

Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 19 September 1985. (NEXIS)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 23 September 1985, pp. C1, C4.

Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 24 September 1985. (NEXIS)

Kyodo News Service (Tokyo), 4 October 1985. (NEXIS)

KOREA (NORTH)

North Korea reported for the first time that South Korea had agreed to aid the United States in the development of SDI. A 29 September article in Nodong Sinmun stated that the South Korean Government had given permission for the United States to build a satellite tracking station in Taegu which would be tied into a space anti-missile system. In previous months, Pyongyang had taken the position that South Korea was being pressured by the United States to support SDI and had encouraged Seoul to reject all such proposals. The article included a scathing attack on South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan for "offering our sacred land to be used as a theater of nuclear space war." As in the past, Pyongyang claimed that the United States would use SDI for offensive purposes, with North Korea being the primary target.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 30 September 1985, pp. D15-16.

KOREA (SOUTH)

As in previous months, South Korean officials did not discuss SDI in public. The only press coverage noted in September were three articles which appeared in National Defense and Technology, a Korean-language monthly published by the Defense Industries Promotion Association. These articles provided factual information on SDI-related weaponry.

KOREA (SOUTH)

National Defense and Technology, a Korean-language monthly published by the Defense Industries Promotion Association (DIPA), carried three articles on SDI-related weaponry in its September 1985 issue. The articles were translated from Western and Japanese military journals such as Military Electronics and Boei Antena [Defense Antenna] and were concerned with direct energy weapons. The DIPA is closely tied to the South Korean Government and defense industries.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

November 1985

Project Manager: Russell R. Ross

PREFACE

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AUSTRALIA

Australian Foreign Minister William G. Hayden, during his speech to the UN General Assembly in New York on 1 October, expressed concern about the arms race in space. In explaining why the Australian Labor Government declined to endorse the US-sponsored Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), Hayden declared: "We prefer that maximum attention be given to eliminating existing weapons systems, preserving the ABM [Antiballistic Missile] regime and enhancing international efforts to ensure that activities in space remain exclusively for peaceful purposes."

AUSTRALIA

Australian Information Service, Embassy of Australia, Australian News
(Washington, DC), no. 20, 8 October 1985, p. 2.

CHINA

China's "long-term" position on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) was restated on 17 October 1985 by Zhu Liang, Chinese representative to the Socialist International Conference on Disarmament in Vienna, when he said that an arms race in outer space, "if allowed to go unchecked will definitely increase the danger of war." He added that "one of the most urgent tasks at present is to call on the two superpowers to halt immediately the arms race in outer space and to demand that they stop the testing, production, and deployment of outer space weapons." For the rest of October, Chinese reporting on SDI was limited to factual accounts of US statements and reactions of the Soviet Union, Japan, and West European nations, coupled with claims that the program would be a "stumbling block" in the Reagan-Gorbachev Geneva summit.

A major article in the 5 August 1985 issue of Beijing Review discussed the "many thorny problems" which SDI causes for West European nations. The article claimed that these nations have "no way out, but to lean more towards the United States," while fearing that they will become more vulnerable to nuclear attack, if the United States and the Soviet Union succeed in establishing nuclear umbrellas. This statement might reveal China's concern that its own nuclear deterrence could be rendered less effective.

CHINA

Beijing Review, 5 August 1985, pp. 22-25.

Beijing Review, 16 September 1985, p. 13 in Worldwide Report, Arms Control, JPRS-TAC-85-037, 8 October 1985, pp. 20-21.

China Daily (Beijing), vol. 5, no. 1302, 25 September 1985, p. 8.

China Report, JPRS-CPS-85-071, 22 July 1985, pp. 13-15.

FBIS/China, 4 October 1985, pp. B1-2.

FBIS/China, 7 October 1985, pp. A3, B1-4.

FBIS/China, 15 October 1985, pp. A1-2.

FBIS/China, 16 October 1985, pp. A1, B4-5, G6.

FBIS/China, 18 October 1985, pp. A2-3.

FBIS/China, 21 October 1985, pp. A2-3.

FBIS/China, 22 October 1985, p. A3.

FBIS/China, 23 October 1985, p. C1.

FBIS/China, 24 October 1985, pp. A4-6.

FBIS/China, 28 October 1985, p. C1.

FBIS/China, 31 October 1985, p. A1.

Interavia (Geneva, Switzerland), no. 10,827, 2 September 1985, p. 8.

Ta Kung Pao Weekly Supplement (Hong Kong), 5 September 1985, p. 4.

INDONESIA

During the last month, the Reagan administration's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) reemerged in the Indonesian press as the subject of an editorial in Jakarta's left-of-center daily, the Indonesian Observer. In a piece probably written by pro-Soviet publisher B.M. Diah himself, the author reported that the Soviet Union had seized the initiative in superpower jockeying prior to the Geneva summit by proposing massive cuts in strategic nuclear weapons. The article pointed out, however, that Moscow's latest offer was linked to US abandonment of its Strategic Defense Initiative. The writer further expressed the opinion that the US program would be "Washington's biggest bargaining chip at Geneva next month," and that in spite of Soviet proposals for arms reduction, the Reagan administration had "resolutely refused" to step back from its pursuit of the SDI research effort.

Other reportage concerning the Strategic Defense Initiative involved the reprinting of wire service stories without further comment. The moderate Indonesia Times, in one such story, noted the persisting ambiguity over whether the proposed ban on space-based weapons covered only production and deployment or basic research as well.

INDONESIA

Indonesian Observer (Jakarta), 2 October 1985, p. 3.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 8 October 1985, p. 4.

JAPAN

In early October, a Japanese Government delegation travelled to the United States to receive detailed briefings on possible Japanese participation in research and development efforts on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). The delegation also reached semi-final agreement with Washington for the transfer to the United States of sophisticated Japanese technology with military applications, such as advanced missile-tracking systems. The talks were criticized by TASS, which claimed that the technology transfer was a step toward participation in the SDI.

In a speech to the Foreign Correspondents Club in Tokyo on 7 October, Prime Minister Nakasone explained his view that the SDI program was a useful political bargaining chip, citing the fact that discussion of the program had helped promote renewed US-Soviet arms reduction talks.

En route to a six-nation Western summit meeting in New York, officials close to Nakasone explained that Japanese "understanding" of the US SDI program was based on four preconditions:

- SDI would not change the balance of power;
- SDI would promote the reduction of offensive nuclear weapons;
- SDI would not violate the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty; and
- the United States would consult with its allies and with the Soviet Union at each stage of production and deployment.

The officials also noted that Nakasone would object to any binding accord on the SDI program at the six-nation summit, in view of France's absence at the conference and stated opposition to it.

JAPAN

Daily Summary of the Japanese Press (US Embassy, Tokyo), 16 October 1985, pp. 15-16.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 4 October 1985, p. C2.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 7 October, p. C1.

FBIS/Soviet Union, 10 October 1985, p. C1.

Jiji Press Ticker Service (Tokyo), 21 October 1985. [NEXIS]

KOREA (NORTH)

During October, North Korean leaders continued their criticism of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) and the militarization of outer space in general. On 2 October, the Chairman of the Korean National Peace Committee, Chong Tu-hwan, claimed that the United States was using the SDI as a means to expand the nuclear arms race at a time when the Soviet was taking unilateral action to reduce the possibility of a nuclear confrontation with the United States. Chong also accused the United States of preparing for a nuclear conflict in Northeast Asia with the support of Japan and South Korea. On 18 October, North Korean Vice President Pak Song-chol talked about his country's positions on nuclear issues during ceremonies in New York commemorating the 40th anniversary of the United Nations. Pak remarked that it was the official policy of the North Korean Government to oppose the militarization of outer space and the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons by any nation. A statement opposing the militarization of outer space also appeared in a Korean-Romanian joint communique published on 15 October at the conclusion of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's visit to North Korea.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 3 October 1985, pp. D2-3.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 17 October 1985, pp. D8-11.

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 21 October 1985, pp. D7-8.

VIETNAM

During the past month Hanoi again lent its support to Soviet foreign policy objectives by denouncing, as it does intermittently, the Reagan administration's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). In an editorial appearing in the internationally distributed Vietnam Courier, the commentator applauded the Soviet moratorium on the deployment of IRBMs in Europe and Moscow's proposal for a ban on "research, testing, and deployment of strike space arms." The writer then lamented the "negative response of the Reagan administration" to the constructive disarmament proposals of the Soviet Union, and noted critically that Washington was "concerned only with continuing the arms race, developing more strategic weapons, and carrying on its 'star wars' programme."

Adopting a different theme on the same subject, the party daily Nhan Dan denounced the Strategic Defense Initiative, using many of the same arguments as domestic critics of SDI in the United States: that it was a squandering of tax revenues; that it threatened "security and peace on earth," and that it was "a madness of the White House." Against this perceived dementia of the US administration, the reportage contrasted "the goodwill gesture of the Soviet Union . . . [in] advocating . . . a starless sky of peace."

VIETNAM

Vietnam Courier (Hanoi), May 1985, p. 16.

Southeast Asia Report, JPRS-SEA-85-154, 8 October 1985, pp. 76-77.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC REACTIONS TO THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

December 1985

Project Manager: Russell R. Ross

PREFACE

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AUSTRALIA

Australian Ambassador for Disarmament Richard Butler reaffirmed his country's rejection of any role in the US Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research program during his address to the UN General Assembly on 25 October 1985. Butler remarked that Australia neither endorsed the US SDI program nor the Soviet Union's research into similar technologies. Declaring that Australia wanted to ensure that activities in space remained peaceful, he underscored the Australian Government's view that there should be no weapons in space. His statements repeated earlier pronouncements by the Australian prime minister, foreign minister, and defense minister that the global arms race "must never be transferred to space."

AUSTRALIA

Australian Information Service, Australia News (Embassy of Australia, Washington, D.C.), No. 22, 7 November 1985, p. 2.

CAMBODIA

In one of Cambodia's few commentaries on the Strategic Defense Initiative, the official news agency SPK (Sa-Pordamean Kampuchea) applauded the Soviet halt to nuclear testing decreed by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. SPK juxtaposed this peaceful gambit by Moscow before the Geneva Summit with the "war-mongering policy" of the US Government which persisted in its "'Star Wars' programme despite vehement protests at home and abroad."

CAMBODIA

Southeast Asia Report, JPRS-SEA-85-142, 17 September 1985, p. 51.

CHINA

In late October, China submitted to the United Nations General Assembly a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space." Calling upon "all states with outer space capabilities to refrain from developing, testing, or deploying outer space weapons," the resolution further urged the United States and the Soviet Union "to conduct serious bilateral negotiations on the matter." This resolution is similar to one submitted by China to the 1984 session of the General Assembly.

During November 1985, Chinese news reports and commentaries on the 19-20 November Reagan-Gorbachev Summit identified SDI as one of the major issues of the meeting.

An 8 November 1985 Xinhua dispatch entitled "China Opposes Arms Race in Outer Space" quotes Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Qian Jiadong as appealing to the United States and the Soviet Union to "immediately stop the arms race in outer space in all its forms," adding that, as the only two major space powers, the US and the USSR bear "a special responsibility" in this regard. In a further clarification of previous Chinese policy statements, Ambassador Qian stated that China opposes an arms race in outer space "no matter who does it and what form it takes" and "supports the principles of 'the demilitarization of outer space' and 'the exclusive use of outer space for peaceful purposes' as laid down in the outer space treaty of 1967."

CHINA

China Daily (Beijing), 14 October 1985, p. 8.

FBIS/China, 1 November 1985, pp. A1-2.

FBIS/China, 4 November 1985, pp. A3-4, G1-2.

FBIS/China, 5 November 1985, p. B1.

FBIS/China, 6 November 1985, p. B2.

FBIS/China, 7 November 1985, p. B2.

FBIS/China, 8 November 1985, p. A1.

FBIS/China, 12 November 1985, p. C4.

FBIS/China, 13 November 1985, pp. B1-2.

FBIS/China, 14 November 1985, pp. A1-5, B1.

FBIS/China, 18 November 1985, pp. A1-6, C1-2.

FBIS/China, 19 November 1985, pp. A1-5.

FBIS/China, 22 November 1985, p. B2.

FBIS/China, 25 November 1985, p. B2.

FBIS/China, 26 November 1985, pp. C1-2.

FBIS/China, 29 November 1985, p. B2.

INDONESIA

In a lengthy article entitled "The SDI Program: Can It Save the World," Harian Umum Angkatan Bersenjata (HUAB), the Armed Forces Daily, presented the most detailed account of the Strategic Defense Initiative yet to appear in the Jakarta media. The piece was an unbiased, factual exposition of the SDI from its underlying strategic concepts to the US administration rationale for its deployment and the technological expertise and innovations required to develop its component weapons systems. The author paraphrased President Ronald Reagan in saying that the SDI "was not only for the interests of the United States, but to save the world and all mankind from all possible irresponsible uses of nuclear missiles." He concluded, however, with a judgment of his own that "At present, the SDI program is marching forward without interruption. Its hopes are as great as its challenges. For the defense and security of the nation, for the global community and the interests of its allies, the United States is prepared to confront all threats and challenges in any form."

Two editorials on the SDI in the moderate Indonesia Times were far more low-key than the HUAB article. One noted the negotiating positions of both superpowers going into the Geneva Summit and remarked that the Soviets "did not budge an inch on their opposition to the Star Wars (the United States Strategic Defense Initiative) and insisted that the United States abandon its SDI." The second editorial on the same subject observed that President Reagan had been "unyielding" in response to the Soviet call for US renunciation of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

INDONESIA

Harian Umum Angkatan Bersenjata [Armed Forces Daily] (Jakarta), 14 October 1985, p. 4.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 21 October 1985, p. 2.

Indonesia Times (Jakarta), 26 October 1985, p. 4.

JAPAN

There were signs in November that the Japanese Government would again defer a response to the US request for participation in the Strategic Defense Initiative, despite briefings received by a Japanese SDI survey team sent to Washington in late September. A Foreign Ministry official noted that the United States was reluctant during those briefings to provide full information on the SDI program because Japan lacks anti-espionage laws. He commented that such laws would be politically difficult to enact. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe stated that Japan might wait until the United States reached agreement with its European allies before clarifying its own position, adding that the later Tokyo joined the SDI research program, the better. The Japanese Government also reportedly wants to receive a detailed account of the Geneva Summit from the United States before replying to the participation request.

Japanese press and officials continued to comment on possible connections between SDI research and the agreement concluded in early October between Japan and the United States for the transfer of military technology. Some of the technologies of interest to the United States, such as Mitsubishi Electric Corporation's missile seeker technology and Fujitsu, Ltd.'s milliwave doppler radar technology, would be of potential value to the SDI program. The Japan Socialist Party has criticized the agreement on such grounds. Meanwhile, a spokesman for Japan's National Space Development Agency (NASDA), which is conducting preliminary studies on intersatellite laser communications systems, stated that Japan will apply the fruits of such research only to non-military purposes. The SDI program would rely heavily on such communications systems.

JAPAN

"Japan to Review Stance Toward USSR, SDI," Jiji Press Ticker Service, 22 November 1985. (NEXIS)

"NASDA Studying Use of Lasers for Inter-satellite Communications," Japan Economic Journal (Tokyo), 16 November 1985, p. 20. (NEXIS)

"Tokyo Report: Japan Preparing for Participation in SDI," Jiji Press Ticker Service, 11 November 1985. (NEXIS)

"U.S.-Japan Agree on Transfer of Military Technology," The Associated Press, AM cycle, International News Section, 22 November 1985. (NEXIS)

KOREA (NORTH)

The only North Korean mention of SDI during the month of November was included in a 16 November Nodong Sinmun article that discussed the upcoming US-USSR Summit talks in Geneva. Predictably, the article merely reiterated Soviet positions on SDI. The North Koreans claim that US unwillingness to discuss space-based weapons during the summit is an indication that the United States hopes to use such weapons someday against the Soviet Union. Nodong Sinmun predicted that the Reagan-Gorbachev talks would not achieve the paramount purpose of reducing tensions between the two superpowers because the United States was uninterested in negotiating reductions in nuclear arms.

KOREA (NORTH)

FBIS/Asia-Pacific, 18 November 1985, pp. D3-4.

LAOS

In a lengthy foreign policy Memoire promulgated in October, the government of the Laotian People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) made a perfunctory denunciation of the Strategic Defense Initiative. The document, in addressing the LPDR's rhetorical support for global peace and disarmament, noted that "We have supported any and all peace initiatives for an end to the arms race and an end to the danger of war, be it on land, sea, or in space, to maintain the existence and life of mankind."

LAOS

FBIS/Asia Pacific, 30 October 1985, p. 11.